



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: )  
DAN PHARO ET AL. )  
SERIAL NO.: 10/633,480 )  
FILED: August 1, 2003 )  
TITLE: PERSONNEL GUIDANCE AND ) GROUP ART UNIT NO. 2859  
LOCATION CONTROL SYSTEM )  
EXAMINER: RICHARD ALEXANDER SMITH )  
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)

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

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The Examiner in the above-identified application essentially stated that the claims were allowable because the prior art cited in the prosecution of this application failed to teach or suggest the Personnel Guidance and Location Control System with those limitations identified in the claims of the application. This position of the Examiner disregards the fact that the claims are slightly broader than corresponding clauses in the claims of the application.

The statements of the Examiner do not identify the fact that the claims are allowable because the prior art fails to teach or

even disclose a personnel guidance and location control system having a ground cover substrate and end of a line element and pair of spaced apart path forming members extending from regions at the opposite ends of the end of the line element with the formation of a pathway to receive the pedestrian individuals. Consequently, and although the statements of reasons for allowance as set forth by the Examiner are applicable may be correct, they may overlook the fact that the reasons for allowance are also the fact that the broad concept of the invention, as just identified, is not disclosed in the prior art.

In some cases, the broad concept may be combined with other features such as, for example, the various layers forming part of the substrate and the materials from which they are formed and also the informational messages and the system for displaying the informational messages on the substrates which are not disclosed for pedestrian pathways of the type described.

The method claims similarly are not taught or even suggested in the prior art since these claims call for the method of controlling and guiding the movement of a group of pedestrian individuals on a ground cover substrate by forming a pedestrian line or lines of such individuals to an end of a line position and then a destination in advance of the end of the line position. Moreover, they do not disclose this method in combination with the providing of informational messages to the one

or more pedestrian individuals. It is therefore believed that the method patentably distinguishes over the prior art, as well.

Dated: Jan. 11, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313-1450 on 1/11, 2007.

Pauline Quo  
(Signature)

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